

FULL TEXT – CHARTER QUESTION #12

(a) – Amend RCH Section 6-1202:

Section 6-1202. Powers, Duties and Functions --

The director of information technology shall:

(a) Operate and maintain [a data processing system] information technology and telecommunications systems for the city government, excluding those systems maintained by the board of water supply and any other semi-autonomous agencies created by ordinance.

(b) Provide technical expertise and support in [data processing] information technology and telecommunication technology to the city government.

(c) Assist the managing director in [management] information technology and telecommunication technology [analysis] analyses and evaluation.

(d) Advise the mayor on [data processing] information technology and telecommunication technology matters.

(e) Perform such other duties as may be required by law.

(b) – Amend RCH Section 4-104 (see paragraph no. 1):

Section 4-104. Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees --

1. All department heads and the managing director, as provided in Sections 5-201, 6-101, 6-103, 6-105, 6-201, 6-301, 6-401, 6-501, 6-601, 6-701, 6-801, 6-901, 6-1101, 6-1201, 6-1301, 6-1401, 6-1501, and 6-1701, shall be nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the council, appointed and may be removed by the mayor, except as otherwise provided by this charter. Department heads shall be duly registered voters of the city and qualifications of department heads shall be as required by this charter.

2. When the position of head of an executive agency becomes vacant and the mayor is the appointing authority, the mayor may temporarily fill the vacancy by granting a commission allowing the nominee to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. The commission shall begin when the mayor submits to the council a request for confirmation. The commission shall expire when the council makes the confirmation decision. If the nominee fails to be confirmed by the council, the nominee shall not be eligible for another interim appointment to the same office.

3. Department heads may appoint the necessary staff for which appropriations have been made by the council.

4. No appointing authority shall appoint any person to any office or position exempted from civil service until satisfied by proper investigation that the person to be appointed is fully qualified by experience and ability to perform the duties of the person's office or position.

(c) – Amend RCH Section 11-107 (see first paragraph):

Section 11-107. Ethics Commission –

There shall be within the department of the corporation counsel for administrative purposes only an ethics commission which shall consist of seven members. The commission shall be governed by the provisions of Section 13-103 of this charter. In accordance with the prohibition in Article XIV of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the members of the ethics commission shall be prohibited from taking an active part in political management or in political campaigns.

The commission may appoint such staff and engage consultants as is necessary to assist it in the performance of its duties. Such staff and consultants may include attorneys who may advise the commission independently of the department of the corporation counsel. All staff positions shall be exempt from the provisions of Chapter 11 of Article VI of this charter, but such staff positions, except the position of executive director, shall be included in the position classification plan. The executive director shall be an attorney qualified to practice law in the State of Hawaii. The salary of the executive director shall be fixed by ordinance.

The commission is authorized to hold hearings and to conduct investigations concerning the application of this article of the charter and shall have the powers provided in Section 13-114 of this charter.

The commission may, on its own initiative, render advisory opinions with respect to this article of the charter. Advisory opinion shall be rendered pursuant to a written request of any elected or appointed officer or employee concerned and may be rendered pursuant to the request of any person. The commission shall publish its advisory opinions with such deletions as may be necessary to prevent disclosure of the identity of the persons involved.

The commission shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action against officers and employees found to have violated the standards of conduct established by this article of the charter or by ordinance. The appointing authority shall promptly notify the commission of the action taken on the recommendation.

(d) – Delete entire RCH Section 6-1608 and footnote:

[Section 6-1608. Political Activities Prohibited --

Except for exercising the right to vote, no member of the police department shall support, advocate or aid in the election or defeat of any candidate for public office. Any violation of this section of the charter by a member of the department shall be cause for summary dismissal from the department.³¹

³¹Prohibition ruled unconstitutional by the First Circuit Court in Civil No. 96-3234-08, SHOPO v. City and County of Honolulu, et al.; decision not appealed by City.]

(e) – Amend RCH Section 4-104 (see paragraph no. 1):

Section 4-104. Appointment, Confirmation and Removal of Officers and Employees --

1. All department heads and the managing director, as provided in Sections 5-201, 6-101, [6-103,] 6-105, 6-201, 6-301, 6-501, 6-601, 6-701, 6-801, 6-901, 6-1101, 6-1201, 6-1301, 6-1401, 6-1501, and 6-1701, shall be nominated and, by and with the advice and consent of the council, appointed and may be removed by the mayor, except as otherwise provided by this charter. Department heads shall be duly registered voters of the city and qualifications of department heads shall be as required by this charter.

2. When the position of head of an executive agency becomes vacant and the mayor is the appointing authority, the mayor may temporarily fill the vacancy by granting a commission allowing the nominee to fulfill the responsibilities of the position. The commission shall begin when the mayor submits to the council a request for confirmation. The commission shall expire when the council makes the confirmation decision. If the nominee fails to be confirmed by the council, the nominee shall not be eligible for another interim appointment to the same office.

3. Department heads may appoint the necessary staff for which appropriations have been made by the council.

4. No appointing authority shall appoint any person to any office or position exempted from civil service until satisfied by proper investigation that the person to be appointed is fully qualified by experience and ability to perform the duties of the person's office or position.

(f) – Amend RCH Section 3-402 (see paragraph no. 2):

Section 3-402. Procedure for Enactment and Adoption --

1. Petition. An ordinance may be proposed by petition, signed by duly registered voters equal in number to at least ten percent of the total voters registered in the last regular mayoral election.

2. Form of Petition. Each voter signing such petition shall add to the signature, the voter's printed name, residence, [social security number] and the date of signing.

3. Affidavit on Petition. Signatures may be on separate sheets, but each sheet shall have appended to it the affidavit of some person, not necessarily a signer of the petition, that, to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief, the persons whose signatures appear on the sheet are duly registered voters of the city, that they signed with full knowledge of the contents of the petition and that their residences are correctly given.

4. Proposed Ordinance. Such petition shall set forth the proposed ordinance, or a draft of the proposed ordinance may be attached and made a part of such petition.

Amend RCH Section 12-103 (see first paragraph):

Section 12-103. Recall Petition; Recall Election --

The recall petition shall require each signing voter's signature, address, [social security number,] council district, and the date of signing. Signatures on a recall petition may be on separate sheets but each sheet shall have appended to it the affidavit of some person, not necessarily a signer of the petition, that to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief the persons whose signatures appear on the sheet are duly registered voters of the city, that they signed with full knowledge of the contents of the petition, and that their residences are correctly given.

A recall petition shall be tendered for filing with the city clerk. The clerk shall examine it to see whether it contains a sufficient number of apparently genuine signatures of registered voters. The clerk may question the genuineness of any signature or signatures appearing on the recall petition and if the clerk finds that any such signature or signatures are not genuine, the clerk shall disregard them in determining whether the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures. The clerk shall also disregard any signature dated more than sixty days before the petition was tendered for filing. The clerk shall eliminate any sheet of the petition which is not accompanied by the required affidavit. The invalidity of any sheet of the petition shall not affect the validity of the petition if a sufficient number of signatures remains after eliminating such an invalid sheet. The clerk shall complete the examination of the petition within twenty working days after the submission of the petition to the clerk and shall thereupon file the petition if valid or reject it if invalid.

As soon as the clerk has accepted a recall petition for filing, the clerk shall notify the elected officer that the petition has been filed. Upon receipt of such notice, the elected officer may resign from office and thereupon the recall proceedings shall terminate.

If the elected officer does not resign from office within ten days after notice of the filing of such petition shall have been given to such elected officer, the clerk shall arrange a recall election. If a general or special city or state election is to be held not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days after the ten days have expired, the recall question shall be placed before the voters at such an election. Otherwise a special recall election shall be fixed for a date not earlier than thirty days nor later than ninety days after ten days have expired. The elected officer may resign at any time prior to the recall election and thereupon the election shall not be held.

The following question shall be presented to each voter in a recall: "Shall (name of elected officer) be recalled and removed from the office of (title of office)?"

If a majority of the registered voters who vote on the question at a recall election shall vote "Yes," the elected officer shall be deemed recalled and removed from office. Otherwise, the said officer shall remain in office.

No person, who has been removed from elected office or who has resigned from such an office after a recall petition directed to the said person has been filed, shall be eligible for election or appointment to any office of the city within two years after said person's removal or resignation.

No recall petition shall be filed against an elected officer within the first or the last year of the officer's term or within six months after an unsuccessful recall election against such officer.

Amend RCH Section 15-101 (see (b), second paragraph):

Section 15-101. Initiation of Amendments or Revisions --

Except as hereinafter provided, amendments or revisions of this charter may be initiated only in the following manner:

(a) By resolution of the council adopted after three readings on separate days and passed by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its entire membership at each reading.

(b) By petition presented to the council, signed by duly registered voters equal in number to at least ten percent of the total voters registered in the last regular mayoral election, setting forth the proposed amendments or revisions. Such petition shall designate and authorize not less than three nor more than five of the signers thereto to approve any alteration or change in the form or language or any restatement of the text of the proposed amendments or revisions which may be made by the corporation counsel.

Such petition shall include each signing voter's signature, residence, [social security number,] and date of signing. Signatures may be on separate sheets, but each sheet shall have appended to it the affidavit of some person, not necessarily a signer of the petition, that to the best of the affiant's knowledge and belief the persons whose signatures appear on the sheet are duly registered voters of the city, that they signed with full knowledge of the contents of the petition and that their residences are correctly given.

Upon filing of such petition with the council, the city clerk shall examine it to see whether it contains a sufficient number of apparently genuine signatures of registered voters. The clerk may question the genuineness of any signature or signatures appearing on the petition, and if the clerk finds that any such signature or signatures are not genuine, the clerk shall disregard them in determining whether the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures. The clerk shall eliminate any sheet of the petition which is not accompanied by the required affidavit. The invalidity of any sheet shall not affect the validity of the petition if a sufficient number of signatures remains after eliminating such invalid sheet. The clerk shall complete the examination of the petition within twenty working days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the corporation counsel, as revisor, may, subject to the provisions of Section 4-202 of this charter, prepare supplements or editions of the charter containing language which reflects an exercise of the reorganization power as prescribed therein.

(g) – Create new section in RCH Article XIII:

Section 13-1 . Public Notices via Electronic Medium.

Whenever a public notice is required by this charter or by ordinance to be published in a daily newspaper, the public notice shall also be distributed via an electronic medium, such as the Internet, within the same timeframe as the newspaper publication.

Amend RCH Section 13-106 (see paragraph no. 2):

Section 13-106. Public Hearings; Notice --

1. No public hearing shall be held by any agency or the council, unless public notice is given prior to such hearing.

2. Notice of any public hearing shall be adequately publicized at least ten days prior to such hearing via an electronic medium, such as the Internet, and in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the city and may be advertised, as deemed helpful, in such other newspapers and through communications media as will afford the public maximum information concerning such hearing. The notice shall include:

- (a) The date, time and place of such hearing.
- (b) A statement in plain language of the nature or purpose, including the issues involved, if any, of such hearing.
- (c) A statement that all interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity of being heard.

Create new section in RCH Article XVI:

Section 16- . Effective Date of Revisions -

All provisions of the amendments to the charter of the City and County of Honolulu, approved on November 7, 2006, shall become effective as of the second day of January 2007, except as otherwise provided.